In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 3 and 4 as set forth below in the "Listing of Claims".

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A catalyst for purifying exhaust gas, which reduces nitrogen oxides in an exhaust gas containing excessive oxygen under the existence of methanol and/or dimethyl ether, wherein the catalyst consists of a proton type ß zeolite having a SiO_2/Al_2O_3 molar ratio within 20-70 wherein the catalyst has substantial denitrification performance and durability.

Claim 2 (Canceled)

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A method of purifying exhaust gas, wherein said method includes ~~removing~~ reducing nitrogen oxides in the exhaust gas containing excessive oxygen therein, comprising contacting the exhaust gas with a catalyst consisting of a proton type ß zeolite catalyst in the presence of methanol and/or dimethyl ether as reducing agent, wherein the proton type ß zeolite has a SiO_2/Al_2O_3 molar ratio within 20-70 wherein the catalyst has substantial denitrification performance and durability.

Claim 4 (Canceled)

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A method of purifying exhaust gas, wherein said method reduces nitrogen oxides in the exhaust gas containing excessive oxygen therein, comprising contacting the exhaust gas with a catalyst in the presence of methanol and/or dimethyl ether as reducing agent, wherein the catalyst comprises a proton type ß zeolite catalyst having a SiO_2/Al_2O_3 molar ratio within 20-70 wherein the catalyst has substantial denitrification performance and durability .

Claim 6 (Canceled)

Please add new claim 7 as follows:

Claim 7 (New): The catalyst according to claim 1, wherein the performance even occurs at 300-400°C.